

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W  
-----124870 061238Z /11

R 061154Z MAR 78  
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2664  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0105

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO  
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD FEB 27 - MAR 5

BEGIN SUMMARY: EASTERN REPS AT THE MARCH 2 INFORMAL  
SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REFUCION NEGOTIATIONS  
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PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE WORDING FOR THE EXPRESSION OF  
WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA  
DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE DECEMBER 14  
EASTERN TEXT OF THE ORAL STATEMENTS WHICH, EASTERN  
REPS INSISTED, MUST BE EXCHANGED PRIOR TO THE  
FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA.  
SUBJECT TO WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW FURMULATION AND

RESTORATION OF A THIRD MENTION OF THE OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL BY DATE, WHICH EASTERN REPS HAD PREVIOUSLY OFFERED TO DELETE FROM THE DECEMBER 14 TEXT, EASTERN REPS SAID THEY WOULD AGREE TO THE INCLUSION OF A NO PREJUDICE CLAUSE AS SOUGHT BY THE WEST. END SUMMARY

2. THE ISSUE OF THE MODALITIES OF A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA CONTINUED TO BE THE FOCUS OF ACTIVITY IN THE VIENNA TALKS, WITH TWO INFORMAL SESSIONS AGAIN BEING HELD THIS WEEK. THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 28 SESSION BEGAN WITH EACH SIDE MAKING A SINGLE GENERAL STATEMENT. THE OPENING WESTERN STATEMENT MADE THE CASE THAT THE TERMS OF A REDUCTION AND LIMITATION AGREEMENT MUST TAKE EASTERN GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES INTO ACCOUNT. THE EASTERN GENERAL STATEMENT ALLEGED THAT THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WOULD DAMANGE EASTERN SECURITY BY LEADING TO A SITUATION WHERE EASTERN GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD NUMBER ONLY 565,000 AS COMPARED WITH 700,000 ON THE WESTERN SIDE AND CRITICIZED THE FAILURE OF NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO UNDERTAKE BINDING FIRST STATE COMMITMENTS ON THE TIMING AND SCOPE OF THIER SECOND STAGE REDUCTIONS.

3. THE BULK OF THE FEBRUARY 28 INFORMAL SESSION DEALT WITH THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN TEXT OF THE ORAL  
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STATEMENTS WHICH EASTERN REPS INSIST MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA. WESTERN REPS NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MOVES THEY HAD MADE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT ROUND TO MEET EASTERN INTERESTS AND EXPLAINED WHY THE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE THEY HAD INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 21 MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF BOTH SIDES AS REGARDS THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL. THEY REITERATED THAT, IF EASTERN REPS COULD NOT AGREE WITH THE LATTER POINT, THEN IT WAS UP TO THEM TO SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE OF THEIR OWN. EASTERN REPS SOUGHT TO REFUTE WESTERN CLAIMS OF MOVEMENT AND MAINTAINED THEIR POSITION THAT THE EXPRESSION OF WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA PROPOSAL MUST BE AS ORIGINALLY FORMULATED IN THE DECEMBER 14 TEXT. EASTERN REPS CONSENTED TO ANOTHER INFORMAL SESSION ON MARCH 2 BUT INDICATED THAT, FOR THEIR PART, THEY WOULD ONLY ADDRESS GENERAL SUBJECTS AT THAT TIME SINCE THE WEST HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION ON THE ORAL STATEMENTS.

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

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4. AT THE MARCH 2 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS  
MADE TWO GENERAL STATEMENTS IN WHICH THEY POSED A SERIES  
OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING WESTERN INTENTIONS AS REGARDS  
BOTH THE METHOD AND CONTENT OF WESTERN ARMAMENT  
AND MANPOWER REDUCTIONS AND THE NATURE OF PARTICIPATION  
BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN REDUCTIONS  
UNDER THE WEST'S COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING CONCEPT.  
WESTERN REPS MADE A GENERAL STATEMENT UNDERLINING THE  
IMPORTANCE OF AN AGREEMENT ON DATA. THEY ALSO  
EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THEIR CONCLUSION THAT SUB-  
SEQUENT EASTERN PROPOSALS HAD NOT CHANGED THE OUTCOME  
ENVISAGED IN THE ORIGINAL EASTERN PROPOSALS PUT

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FORWARD IN NOVEMBER 1973.

5. THE REMAINDER OF THE MARCH 2 INFORMAL SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO THE DATA EXCHANGE ISSUE. AFTER A WESTERN STATEMENT ADDRESSING THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN TEXT, EASTERN REPS PROPOSED NEW WORDING TO REPLACE THE ORIGINAL EASTERN LANGUAGE FOR THE WESTERN STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL. IN PLACE OF THE LATTER, WHICH READ QUOTE THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AGREE WITH THE CITED PROPOSALS OF THE DELEGATIONS OF THE WARSAW TREATY PARTICIPANTS OF 25 OCTOBER 1977, ON THE BASIS OF THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING: UNQUOTE, EASTERN REPS OFFERED TO SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO EXCHANGE DATA ON THE BASIS OF THE JUST CITED PROPOSALS OF THE WARSAW TREATY DIRECT PARTICIPANT STATES OF OCTOBER 25, 1977 UNDER THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING: UNQUOTE. IF WESTERN REPS ACCEPTED THIS CHANGE, AND THE RESTORATION OF A FURTHER CITATION OF THE OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL BY DATE WHICH EASTERN REPS HAD PREVIOUSLY OFFERED TO DELETE FROM THE DECEMBER 14, TEXT, EASTERN REPS SAID THEY COULD AGREE TO THE INCLUSION OF A NO PREJUDICE CLAUSE WHICH WESTERN REPS WISHED TO ADD TO THE TEXT. UNDER CLOSE WESTERN QUESTIONING, EASTERN REPS CONTENDED THAT THE NEW WORDING THEY HAD JUST PROPOSED HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE EXCHANGE OF STILL FURTHER DATA IN THE FUTURE.

6. BELGIAN REP SMOLDEREN DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 2 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION EXPLAINED THE WESTERN REQUIREMENT FOR COLLECTIVE CEILINGS AND RESPONDED TO EASTERN CRITICISMS OF THE  
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## Message Attributes

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